RAJYA SABHA

Friday the 18r// *July.* 1986/27 *Asadha* 1908 *{Saia)*

Ths House met at eleven of the clock.
Mr. Chainnaa in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Ram Awadesh Singh (Bihar).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The oath is not complete. *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right. It is taken as read.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Sir. the other version should be taken as read. *I* am congratulating the Member from the Marxist benches for omitting the reference to God.. *(Interruptions).*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all tight. It should be taken as read. We shall now take up Questions. Question No. 21. Mr. Irshadbaig.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

सूखे/अकाल से प्रभावित राज्य

*21. **श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग :***

श्री अटल बिहारी बाजपेयी :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) चालू वर्ष के दौरान अब तक तथा पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान किन-किन राज्यों में सूखा अकाल पड़ा ;

(ख) इस संबंध में राज्य सरकारों की मांगें क्या हैं; प्रत्येक राज्य को क्या-क्या केन्द्रीय सहायता दी गयी है और राज्यों को दी गयी धन-राशि की वसूली किस प्रकार की जायेगी;

(ग) इस संबंध में प्रत्येक मामले में सरकार अन्य क्या-क्या कदम उठा रही है;

(घ) प्रत्येक मामले में दी जाने वाली सहायता-राशि का अवधारण करने के लिये मार्गदर्शी-सिद्धान्त क्या है; और

(ङ) क्या सूखा, अकाल एवं बाढ़ जैसी आपदाओं से राज्यों की रक्षा करने के लिये कोई दीर्घकालीन योजनाएं सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं ; यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाणा) :(क) से (ङ) एक विवरण सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है ।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) 1983-84 से 1986-87 तक की वर्षों के दौरान सूखे से प्रभावित राज्यों के नाम, इन राज्यों द्वारा मांगी गई केन्द्रीय सहायता और भारत सरकार द्वारा संस्वीकृत धनराशि को दर्शाने वाला राज्य-वार ब्यौरा अनुबन्ध में दिया गया है [देखिये परिशिष्ट 139, अनुबन्ध संख्या ।] सूखे के मामले में वसूली के तरीके के बारे में स्थिति निम्न प्रकार है :—

सूखा राहत की लिये केन्द्रीय सहायता तीन वर्गों में दी जाती है, अर्थात् (1) मार्जिन धनराशि का केन्द्रीय अंश, जो कि राज्य के अंश के बराबर है, जैसा कि आठवें वित्त आयोग द्वारा निर्धारित किया गया है । मार्जिन धनराशि के केन्द्रीय अंश की राज्यों से वसूली नहीं की जाती है; (2) उक्त मार्जिन धनराशि से अधिक केन्द्रीय सहायता, जो राज्य की वार्षिक योजना परिव्यय के 5 प्रतिशत तक दी जाती है, अग्रिम योजना सहायता के रूप में दी जाती है और इसे सूखे की समाप्ति के बाद के पांच वर्षों के भीतर राज्य की योजनाओं संबंधी केन्द्रीय सहायता से समायोजित किया जाना होता है । इस अग्रिम योजना सहायता को उसी तरीके से वसूल/समायोजित किया जाता है, जो राज्य योजना की सामान्य केन्द्रीय सहायता के लिये लागू है । (3) उस मामले में जहां केन्द्रीय सहायता की धन-राशि उपरोक्त से अधिक है, ऐसी अतिरेक धनराशि अनुदान के रूप में 50 प्रतिशत तक और ऋण के रूप में शेष 50 प्रतिशत तक माना जाता है । ऋण के घटक की अदायगी 15 वर्षों में की जाती है, जिस पर 1.6.1986 से

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*प्रसभा में प्रश्न श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग द्वारा पूछा गया ।

8.75 प्रतिशत की ब्याज दर होती है और जो राज्य योजना की सामान्य केन्द्रीय सहायता की ऋण घटक की तरह वसूली योग्य है ।

(ग) उपरोक्त के अलावा, केन्द्रीय सहायता द्वारा मूल्य पर राज सहायता और राहत कार्य में लगे श्रमिकों को रियायती दरों पर वितरित किये गये खाद्यानों की सम्भाल लागत की अदायगी भी की जाती है ।

(घ) केन्द्रीय सहायता की धनराशि का निर्धारण उन केन्द्रीय दलों की रिपोर्टों के आधार पर किया जाता है जो प्रभावित क्षेत्रों का दौरा करके स्थिति का मौके पर जायजा लेकर जनता के प्रतिनिधियों और राज्य सरकार के अधिकारियों के साथ विचार-विमर्श करने के पश्चात् केन्द्रीय सहायता की मात्रा के बारे में सिफारिश करते हैं । ये दल रोजगार सृजन, गोपशु संरक्षण, पेयजल आपूर्ति, पोषाहार और प्रभावित आबादी के स्वास्थ्य की देखभाल और लघु और सीमान्त किसानों द्वारा वैकल्पिक/आगामी फसल उगाने के लिये आवश्यक कृषि आदानों जैसी मदों पर होने वाले अनुमानित व्यय की आवश्यकता को ध्यान में रखते हैं । केन्द्रीय दलों की रिपोर्टों पर राहत संबंधी उच्च स्तरीय समिति द्वारा विचार किया जाता है, जो विभिन्न मदों के अन्तर्गत केन्द्रीय सहायता की मात्रा के बारे में अपनी सिफारिशें देती है ।

(ङ) सूखे के प्रभाव को कम करने के लिये अपनाए गए दीर्घविधि उपाय ये हैं : सिंचाई के अन्तर्गत क्षेत्र में वृद्धि करना, सूखा प्रवण क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम, मरू विकास कार्यक्रम, राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार कार्यक्रम, ग्रामीण भूमिहीन रोजगार गारंटी कार्यक्रम, मृदा और जल संरक्षण कार्य और वनरोपण । बाढ़ से बचाव के लिये राज्य सरकारों द्वारा बाढ़ नियन्त्रण और जल-निकासी से सम्बन्धित विभिन्न कार्य किये जाते हैं ।

श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग : मान्यवर सभापति महोदय, इस वर्ष राष्ट्र के 260 जिले सूखाग्रस्त हुए और पिछले पांच वर्षों में केवल 512 करोड़ रुपया जुटा कर राज्यों को अधिक त्वरित गति से सहायता पहुंचाई, और माननीय प्रधान मंत्री तथा कृषि मंत्रियों ने राज्यों की मुलाकातें लीं । इस संबंध में मैं सरकार को अभिनन्दन देता हूं, किन्तु, मान्यवर, मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि गुजरात के उन्तीस में से सोलह जिले जब सूखाग्रस्त हुए हों और अठारह लाख श्रमिक, दस हजार जितने राहत कार्यों में लगे हों, तब मार्जिन धन-राशि की अधिक की केन्द्रीय सहायता राशि का राज्यों से भुगतान उसकी योजनाओं से करने से, क्या राज्यों का विकास अवरुद्ध न होगा ?

मान्यवर, मैं यह भी पूछना चाहता हूं कि इस संबंध में केन्द्र की कृषि तथा वाणिज्य सचिवों की अध्यक्षता में गठित समिति ने जो अपनी अंतरिम रिपोर्ट सरकार को प्रस्तुत की है, तथा जनवरी में हुई राज्यों के रेवेन्यू मंत्रियों ने भी जो सिफारिशें की हैं, वह सिफारिशें मैं जानना चाहता हूं और उसके संबंध में सरकार ने क्या अमलीकरण किया है, यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, the Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments. But as the resources are limited with the States and the Centre, the amount which is given to the State Government is also according to both tlie availability of the resources and the gravity of the situation. So far as the Report of the Committee is concerned, it is not with me. But, when it is received, I can communicate it to the honourable Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN-. You put your second supplementary, Mr. Irshadbaig

श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग : मान्यवर, मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि नेशनल इंस्टिट्यूट आफ डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट की स्थापना होनी कब तक संभावी है ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA; Sir. the Institute was proposed to be set up and the amount is also allocated hi the Budget. But the matter is referred to a group of Ministers. A committee is formed of the Ministers and the matter is deferred to them for examination.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Vajpayee not here. Yes, Mr. Upendra.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, from ihe statement of the Minister it that the request of the Andhra Pradesh Government for an assistance of Rs. 326 crores is still under the consideration of the Government. I would like to know from the Minister when the Central Team visited Andhra Pradesh. When did they submit their report and when did" the high Ievel committee recommended the relief, and when was the relief actually given?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir. there are three Memoranda received from teh State of Andhra Pradesh, Memorandum No. 1 was received on 6th May 1985. The team visited from 1.7th to 20th May, 1985. The meeting of the high level committee was held on the 15th June, 1985, and the amount was sanctioned on 25th June. 1985. Then, the second Mamorandum was received on 5th October, 1985; the team visited from. 25!h to 28th October 1985; the amount was sanctioned on 10th December 1985. The third Memorandum was received on 13th March 1986; the team visited from the 3rd to 7th May 1986. Th_e high level committee was held $_0$n 19th June 1986; and the recommendation is with the Finance Ministry. It will be soon sanctioned.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, 1 refer to my own State, Karnataka. The drought situation in Karnataka has been continuing for the last four years, and T am afraid even in the fifth year it may continue, because till now the rainfall en very sparse. And the State Government, becaust of pauciy of rsources, is forced to scale down their expenditure in drought-prone areas. May I, therefore, request the Minister to increase the assistance? May I also draw the attention of the Minister to bis statement before us? Fo_r the year 1985-86 the Karnataka Government made a demand of Rs. 587.93 crores but only Rs. 62.46 crores ha.s been given. In the previous year against *thi* demand of Rs. 209.50 crores, only Rs. 32.73 crores has been given. May t know, Sir, why . this kind of indifferent attitude or rather very meagre assistance has been given?

AN HON. MEMBER: Callous.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I do not want to use a very harsh word.

May I know why this meagre amount has been given?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA; Sir. in reply to the first supplementary of the hon. Member, Shri Mirza Irshadbaig. I stated that our resources are limi'.ed, and whatever we are doing is we are supplementing the efforts of the Slate Governments. Basically it is the State Government which has to look after the situa-. tion in the State, but because we know that their resources are also limited we are supplementing their elforts. Not only this, there are a number of other schemes also, through which we are helping the State Governments. There is the scheme of IRDP; there is the NREP; then there is the accelerated Rural water supply scheme. All these schemes are for helping the State Governments to mitigate the difficulties of the people and 'to mise the effects of drought.

MR. • CHAIRMAN Shri Satva Pal Malik.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : श्रीमन्, जो सूखा-राहत के तरीके हैं, वे एक दम मध्ययुगीन तरीके अब भी चल रहे हैं, जैसे बादशाहों के जमाने में होता था या अंग्रेजों की जमाने में होता था, आज जब कि स्थितियां बदली हैं, जो सूखाग्रस्त इलाके हैं, मानिटर्ड इलाके हैं, जहां पानी की कमी है, बरसात कम होती है । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो सूखा-राहत का मामला होता है, जो प्रशासन है या वहां के राजनीतिक लोग हैं, निहित स्वार्थ जैसा बन गया है और पूरी तरह से अनप्रोडक्टिव खर्चा राहत के नाम पर होता है, तो क्या कोई दीर्घकालीन योजना सरकार के पास इसके लिए विचाराधीन है सूखाग्रस्त इलाकों को उस चपेट से परमानेंटली निकालने की? दूसरा, जो राहत का मामला है, उसमें दिक्कत पेश आती है, यह अंग्रेजों के जमाने का बना हुआ फेमीन कोड है और इससे सहायता की राशि के निर्धारण में बहुत दिक्कत पैदा होती है, इसलिए क्या सरकार इस फेमीन---कोड को बदलने के लिए विचार करने के लिए तैयार है ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir. during the Mughal period !here was nt>

provision for giving any relief to Ihe drought affected people. It was only during the British period that the system was introduced. The Famine code....

AN HON. MEMBER: You are wrong, Mr. Minister. *(Interruptions).*

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : मैं करेक्ट कर दूं, लखनऊ का इमामबाड़ा राहत की वक्त बना था ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are on the current situation.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The history says that only soup was You cannot call that relief.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : नहीं, सड़कें भी बनवाई जाती थीं ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The subject under discussion is not history.

SHRr YOGENDRA MAKWANA: At present, there is no famine code. There is the scarcity manual and we go by that. So far as long-term measures are concernnation is the main source which can minimise the effect of drought. If there is irrigation facility available, we c?n help the farmers even if there; is no rain. Ihe irrigation facility in 1950-51 wns 22.6 million hectares. Now it has been extended to 62.9 million hectares in 1984-85. Now, the Government has formed a water Resources Ministry which taps all the water resources to help the farmers. Another programme is Drought Prone Area Programme. Then there is Desert Development Programme. There is also Soil and Water Conservation Programme. We have National Rural Employment Programme. Then there is Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Scheme. There is Drinking Water Programme. We also have Accelerate Rural Water Supply Scheme. All these programmes are aimed at minimising the effects of drought, to supply drinking water to the people and to create more irrigation facilities so that they can cultivate their crops even in the scarcity year.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: what the Minister ha.s said is the usual reply which is given on certain important questions saying that there is no money *(Interruptions)* I have heard it. One question which needs to be answered in mis connection is about the criterion °f the drought prone area during the o'd British period and today. The criterion >n m'any Stntes has not been changed at ali. It is 8 annas-or 9 annas or 7 annas. That is the standard to decide whether a village is a scarcity-affected village or not. WiH the Minister categorically state t'nat the criterion will be changed? Every State Government desires to change it. Unless the Centre and the Planning Commission decide to change it, there is no use in changing it at the State level because the finances will not come forth. So, what is your straightforward and categorical reply in this respect? Don't go on glossing over the matter. Secondly, in the case of Maharashtra, the total requirement of the State of Maharashtra was 865 crores between 1985-86 and 1986-87. The sanctioned amount is barely 10 per cent while the all India sanctioned amount is 16 per cent. I want to know wh<it is the drought subsidy in the case of the State of Maha^ rashtra.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, no supplementary must exceed two minutes.

SHRI A G. KULKARNI: How can I do that? You can refer to the rules. I can also refer to the rules. Anyway, I will complete it. I would like to know whelher it is possible for the Government in the case of Maharashtra 'as in the case of , other States such as Andhra. Karnataka. U.P. or Bihar to do that.

The money from the State Government has dried up. That is why the •areas where the people are affected are in such a miserable financial position that they cannot even make both ends meet. What is your reply to that?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I want to reply to his second supplemem.-'tary first. Why do you talk about Maharashtra 'alone? We have to talk about tfie entire country. And the Government of India has helped the States which are affected by drought, including Maharashtra. And Maharashtra has got considerable 'amount compared to other States.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. no.

SHRi A. G. KULKARNI: Wno told you that it is a considerable amount?'

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, you must hear ihe answer.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: There may be one or two States which have i;ot more than Maharashtra. But there are many other Srates which have got less than Maharashtra. That you must understand.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Drought must not have been there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, this is not allowed.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I do not know why this eld- man is t> agitated over this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are creating if. . .

SHRl A. G. KULKARNI: Mr. Makwana, who told you that I am old?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I certify that Mr. Kulkarni is very young.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He is an old young man.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Old in age and young in spirit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is old in experience. Anyway, the answer has got submerged in the laughter.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, so far as the first part of t'ne question 'about the revision of the norms is concerned, the Government was also apprised of it, and we have revised the norms. For the information of the hon. Member, if he wants, it is a long list. And we have revised all the norms. And for gratuitous relief, earlier it was Rs. 2,000. And we have made it to Rs. 5,000|- For ex-gratia payment on loss of limbs, there was nothing earlier. It is now Rs. 2,500|-. In the case of relief for the old and infirm, it was earlier Rs. 1.50, and it is made to Rs. 2 for the adult and Re. 1 for child. Then in the relief camp, it was Rs. 2. And it is increased to Rs. 4, So, all the norms. .. .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I want to "know 'about the crop position.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It is a question of relief, norms of relief.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: How do you decide the drought? That is on the crop basis. Where it is six annas or eight annas or nine annas, what do you want to say?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Your State has changed to paise. not annas. Maharashtra has changed to paise and it is not *annawtiri.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the new Member—Mr. Ajit P. K. Jogi;

श्री अजीत पी. के. जोगी : मध्य प्रदेश के संदर्भ में पूछना चाहता हूं कि जब सूखा पड़ता है तो चार क्षेत्रों में सरकार मदद करती है । वह रोजगार उपलब्ध कराती है, पेय जल की व्यवस्था करती है, पशुओं के लिये चारे की व्यवस्था करती है और अगर महामारी की संभावना हो तो दवा की व्यवस्था करती है । मेरा प्रश्न पेय जल की समस्या के संबंध में है । बहुत से ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं मध्य प्रदेश और दूसरे प्रान्तों में भी जैसे मध्य प्रदेश में पूरा मालवा का पठार है, उससे लगता हुआ गुजरात का पंचमहल वाला इलाका है, महाराष्ट्र का मराठवाड़ा इलाका है और इन सब में पीने के पानी की समस्या बहुत गंभीर होती जा रही है । पहले जिन कुओं में 5, 7 साल पहले 40, 50 फुट पर पानी था वहां 200 फुट और 400 फुट गहरे ट्यूबवेल में भी पानी नहीं है । मालवा के पठार के बारे में मैं अधिकृत रूप से कह सकता हूं कि यदि पेय जल के बारे में हमने अभी से गंभीरता से ध्यान नहीं दिया तो यह क्षेत्र भी...

श्री सभापति : सवाल पूछिये ।

श्री अजीत पी. के. जोगी : आई एम कमिंग टू दैट । मेरा सवाल यह है कि पेय जल की व्यवस्था के लिये शार्ट टर्म, इम्मीडियेट और दूरगामी क्या इंतजाम हम करने जा रहे हैं ? यदि यह नहीं किये गये तो जो पठारी क्षेत्र हैं उन में पीने का पानी बिकने लगेगा और बाद में यह क्षेत्र रेगिस्तान में परिवर्तित होते जायेंगे । तो मैं आप के माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता था कि

what are the immediate short-term and long-term measures you a're talking

SHRl YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, there are two programmes ior drinking water. One is ths MNP which is in the State sector. The other is the ARWSP —that is, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. Now under the ARWSP, the Accelerate^ Rural Water Supply Programme, the Government of India is giving IOO per cent assistance. But all that depends on how they frame their MNP programme. Now, ali the States do not make more allocations for the Minimum Needs Programme; where they have to provide drinking water facilities to t'ne villages, but they want money, which is given by the Government of India not exceeding to what they are allocating under the Minimum Needs Pragramme.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA ALIAS V. ARUNACHALAM: Sir. the hon. Minister in this statement has said that Tamil Nadu has not sought any Centra! assistance. But I understand that our Government 'has sent a memorandum requesting the Government for Central assistance because drought conditions are prevailing their for the last two Or three years. That is number one: I want to know the factual information. In addition to that, it is well known that during the period of drought State Governments are to postpone the collection of 'and tax and the interest on the co-operative ed as was done, for >ur Hon. Chief Minister on the 13th of this month, who waived the interest on the co-operative loans of farmers :o the extent of Rs. 125 crores. Will this Government come forward to share the burden of expenditure with the State as drought assistance from the Centre?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It is not possible.

SHRl MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, I suppose the hon. Minister has a poor sense of history. Long before the British came, we have been implementing ' the drought relief programmes. As you may be aware, some °f the big temples in Tamil Nadu are there as a <"es""t of • •

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Maran, you can pat 'a qnestion on the Minister's administrative responsibility. You cannot put a question on history. *(Interruptiuos)*

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Sir, long before the British came, we have been having and implementing the public spending programme. Sir, my question is this. As my colleague, Mr. Aladi Aruna has put it, during the year 1983-34, Tamil Nadu has sought Rs. 219 crores 'as relief, but was given only Rs. 59 crores. It is a pittance, i would like to know why this impartiality?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Say, partiality.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I am sorry, Sir. impartiality, if you compared it with other States ruled by the same party which is in power here. Secondly, Sir, as Mr. Aladi Aruna has put it, Tamil Nadu ^ reeling under drought conditions for the past two years. In this statement, 1 see for the year 1984-85, no figures are given, in the column 'sought' it is nil, and in the column 'approved' it is again nil. Similarly for the year 1985-86, 'sought' nil, and 'approved' nil. Sir, J would like to have a categorical answer from the Hon. Minister whelher the Government of Tamil Nadu has come to you with memorandum or 'a letter saying that they are affected by drought.

SHRl YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir. Tami! Nadu has not submitted any memorandum for the drought but they have submitted a memorandum for drinking water. Now for drinking water there is a separate scheme which I have already said and which has nothing to do wi>h the drought.

SHRi SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: Sir. immediately after Independence of this country, it was realised that the westerrorist of Rajasthan and Gurgaon, Mahendragarh and another area of Har_ yana are drought areas which need immediate help. In 1955, an agreement was concluded realising t'njs fact that western parts 0f Rajasthan and these three districts of Haryana are drought prone. In 1960, the indus Waters Treaty also put the stamp on this fact and said that immediate relief must be given to these

areas. Now, 25 years after 1960, and these areas are still in an extremely poor co»dition. Last year there was total drought in these areas, May I know from the hon. Minister what they have done in the last 25 years to provide irrigation facilities or water facilities from any water channel so as to obviate the difficulties created by the drought?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, the Government has done maximum for providing water to the farmers through irrigation facilities created by the Irrigation Ministry, and this is not suflcient. Therefore, the Government has created the Ministry of Water Resources which *ls* looking into the integrated use of water resources which are available in the country.

So f ar as Haryana is concerned, Haryana has nine blocks which are covered under DP AP and under Desert Development Programme there are 26 blocks which are covered. So those districts and blocks which are affected by desert and which are prone to drought are already covered under this programme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

New Irrigation Projects

*22. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:!

SHRl D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre Ii JS taken a decision not to clear any new irrigation project unless it had a drinking water component pending the formulation of the National Water Resources Policy; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what are the details of the major and minor irrigation projects which have been kept in abeyance or rejected, Statewise;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to clear these projects;

(d) what is the gap in the irrigation potential and its utilization in the country and what are the reasons therefor;

tThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Raoof Valiullah.

(e) whether Government have issued any guidelines in this direction; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: (a) to (c) Inclusion of drinking water supply component in irrigation and multipurpose projects is being emphasised. No major or medium irrigation project has been kept in abeyance or rejected for non-fulfilment of this condition. Minor schemes are not referred to the Centre for clearance.

(d) At the end of the Sixth Plan period, the gap in the utilisation of irrigation potential created was about 7.5 million ha. The main reasons therefor are, among others, inadequate infrastructure and lack-of extension facilities, inefficient distribution of water, change in cropping pattern involving high water consumption, inadequate supply of power and over reporting of the potential in some cases.

(e) and (f) The State Governments have been urged to provide necessary infrastructure facilities and <also to take up adaptive trials to demonstrate the correct cropping sequence, cropping varieties etc.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Sardar Sarovar Project on the River Narmada is one of the biggest irrigation projects the world, funded by the World Bank. The World Bank has already released huge funds. A survey report has been prepared by the Government of Gujarat with regard to rehabilitation of people in the submerged areas. Sir. according to the report, there will be no water-logging and drainage problems because as per the advice of the Prime Minister, it has been designed block by block. I understand the project has been kept in abeyance for want of environmental clearance. Sir. the World Bank has stricter norms for environmental clearance than probably the Government of India. Therefore, T would like to know from the Minister as to what action has been taken so far and whether the Government would go in for selective funding of the major multi-purpose projects in tlie country, particularly when detailed reports have been prepared